IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS WESTERN DIVISION

JAMES J. NAPLES, Assignee of Pinewood Enterprises

APPELLANT

v.

Nos. 4:13-cv-499-DPM & 4:13-cv-547-DPM

RENEE S. WILLIAMS, Chapter 7 Trustee, LHSW and MICHAEL E. COLLINS, Chapter 11 Trustee

APPELLEES

and

JAMES J. NAPLES, Assignee of Pinewood Enterprises

APPELLANT

v.

No. 4:13-cv-667-DPM

RENEE S. WILLIAMS, Chapter 7
Trustee, LHSW; UNITED STATES
TRUSTEE; and MICHAEL E.
COLLINS, Chapter 11 Trustee

APPELLEES

and

A.K. TENNESSEE IRREVOCABLE TRUST; KIMBRO STEPHENS INSURANCE TRUST; DAVID KIMBRO STEPHENS, Individually and on behalf of all the equitable beneficiaries of the Kimbro Stephens Insurance Trust and the A.K. Tennessee Irrevocable Trust

APPELLANTS

 $\mathbf{v}.$

No. 4:13-cv-670-DPM

RENEE S. WILLIAMS; MICHAEL E. COLLINS; UNITED STATES TRUSTEE; LIVING HOPE INSTITUTE, INC.; ESTATE OF WANDA J. STEPHENS, a/k/a Wanda J. Stephens; and JAMES J. NAPLES

APPELLEES

and

GREG STEPHENS, as personal representative of the Estate of Wanda Stephens

APPELLANT

v.

No. 4:13-cv-723-DPM

RENEE S. WILLIAMS, Chapter 7 Trustee, LHSW; MICHAEL E. COLLINS, Chapter 11 Trustee; JAMES J. NAPLES, Assignee of Pinewood Enterprises, LC; UNITED STATES TRUSTEE; LIVING HOPE INSTITUTE INC.; AK TENNESSEE IRREVOCABLE TRUST; KIMBRO STEPHENS INSURANCE TRUST; and DAVID KIMBRO STEPHENS, Individually and on behalf of the AK Tennessee Irrevocable Trust, the Kimbro Stephens Insurance Trust, and their equitable beneficiaries

APPELLEES

ORDER

Five separate appeals from the same underlying bankruptcy case are before this Court. Case numbers 4:13-cv-499 and 4:13-cv-547 have already been consolidated, and the Court has accepted transfer of the other three cases, Nos. 4:13-cv-667, 4:13-cv-670, and 4:13-cv-723. Among the pending motions are Naples's notices of related case and motions to consolidate, 4:13-cv-499, $N_{\rm P}$ 9 and 4:13-cv-667, $N_{\rm P}$ 3. The United States Trustee opposes consolidation, 4:13-cv-667, $N_{\rm P}$ 10; no one else has responded.

All five cases arise from a common legal and factual background. The parties in cases 4:13-cv-667, 4:13-cv-670, and 4:13-cv-723 aren't exactly the

same. But those three cases are appeals from the same Bankruptcy Court order, and should be handled together. Though the pending motions ask to consolidate only 4:13-cv-667 with 4:13-cv-499, consolidating all five cases is the best way to resolve the parties' disputes and promote efficient use of the parties' and the Court's resources. The motions, N_{0} 9 & N_{0} 3, are granted; No. 4:13-cv-667 is consolidated with lead case 4:13-cv-499. The Court, on its own motion, consolidates 4:13-cv-667, 4:13-cv-670, and 4:13-cv-723 with 4:13-cv-499. FED. R. CIV. P. 42(a)(2). The Court directs the Clerk to transfer all pending motions, and any related responses and replies, to the lead case, No. 4:13-cv-499-DPM. The parties should file all future papers in the lead case, too, also noting the applicable original case number. Merits briefing is complete in cases 4:13-cv-499 and 4:13-cv-547; it is stayed pending resolution of the motions to dismiss in 4:13-cv-667 and 4:13-cv-670. To bring 4:13-cv-723 in line, the Court stays merits briefing in that slice of the case too.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.

United States District Judge

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